



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1717 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cramer:

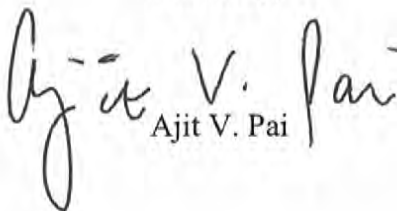
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Luke Messer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1230 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
113 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

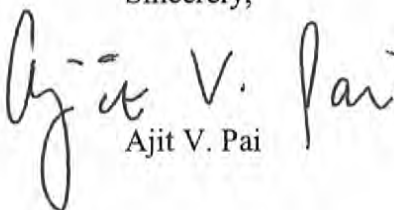
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable David Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
240 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

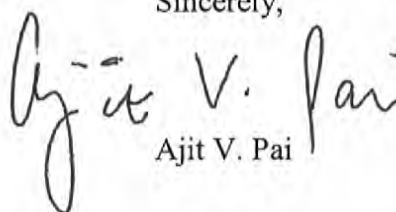
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
322 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

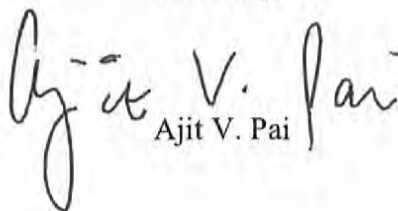
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

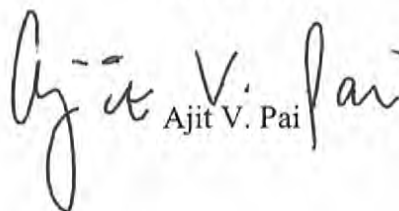
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2301 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DesJarlais:

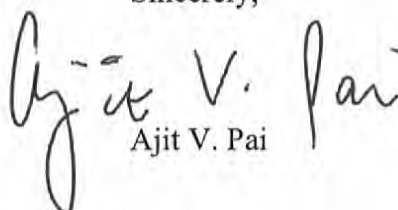
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Doug Lamborn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2402 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn:

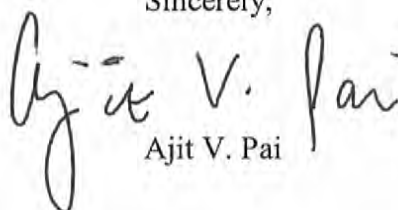
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steve Pearce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

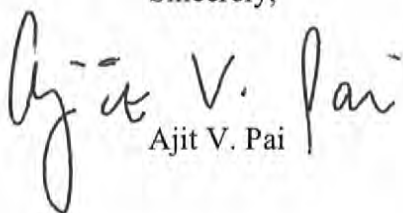
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

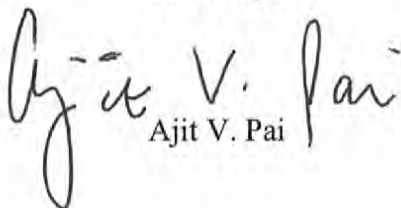
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mo Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2400 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brooks:

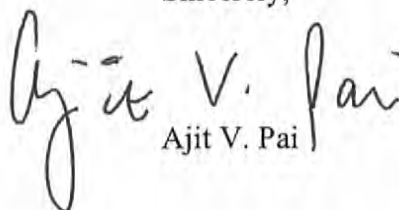
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
U.S. House of Representatives  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

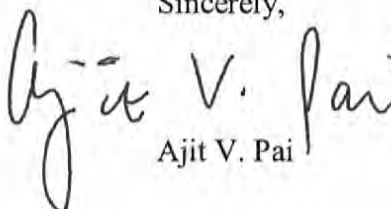
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2457 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Noem:

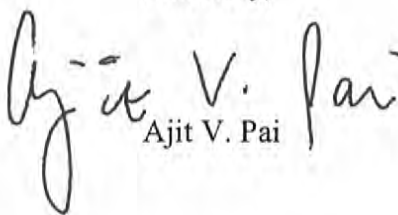
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Cheri Bustos  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1009 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bustos:

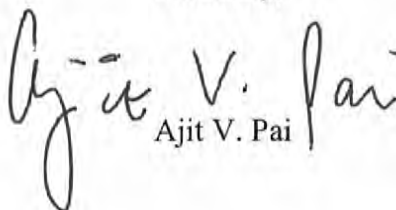
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable James R. Comer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

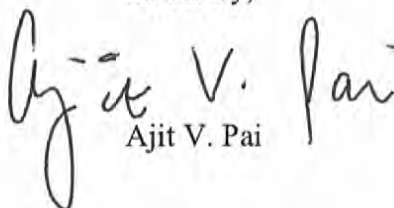
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

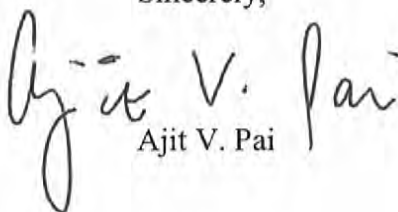
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" and last name "Pai" clearly visible. Below the signature, the name "Ajit V. Pai" is printed in a standard font.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duffy:

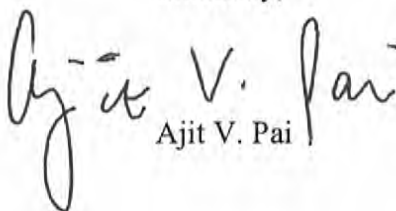
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
U.S. House of Representatives  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Walorski:

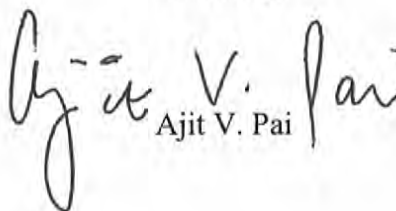
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Chris Stewart  
U.S. House of Representatives  
323 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stewart:

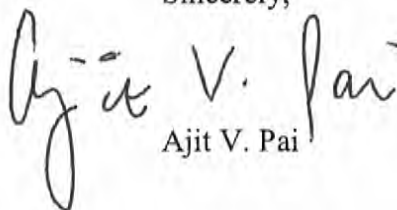
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steve King  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jared Polis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1727 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

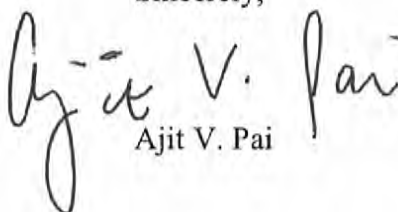
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1410 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

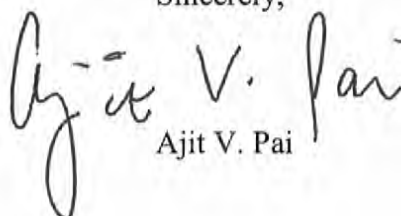
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Coffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2443 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Coffman:

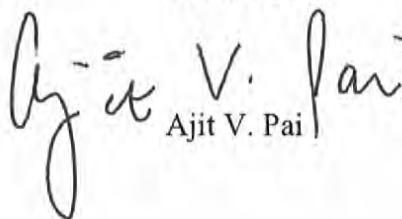
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1526 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jenkins:

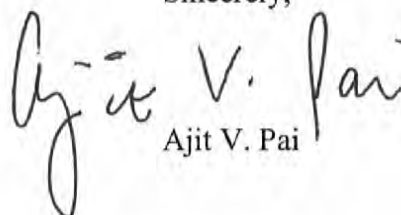
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Austin Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2417 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

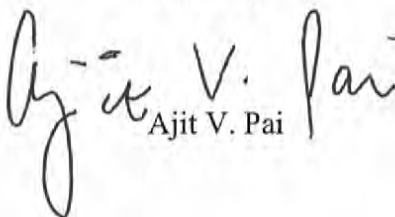
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1022 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

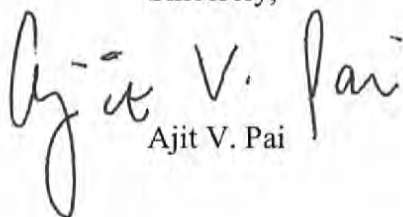
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2431 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

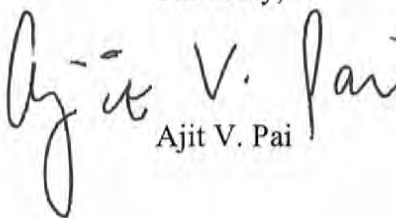
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable David B. McKinley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

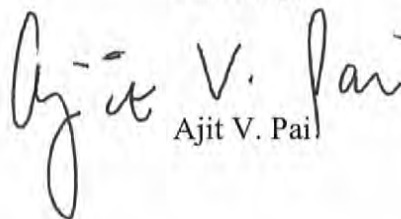
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lucas:

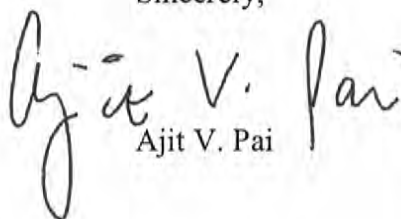
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

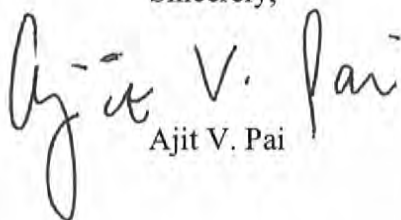
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

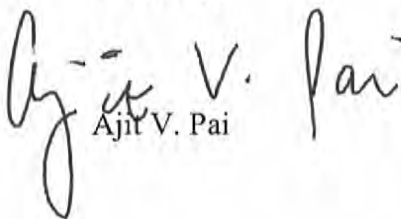
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rick Allen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Allen:

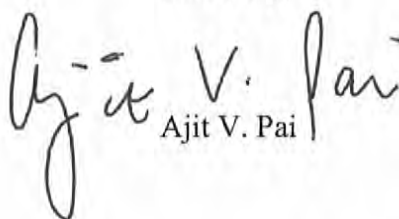
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rick Crawford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2422 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

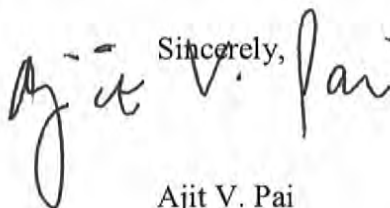
Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner:

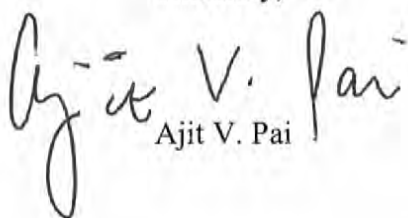
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Todd Rokita  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2439 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rokita:

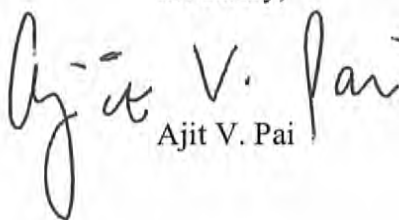
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Bost  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bost:

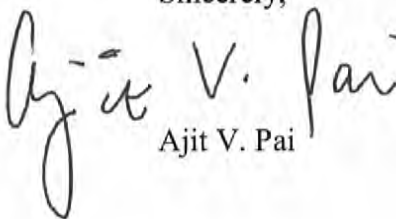
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Glenn Grothman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1217 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grothman:

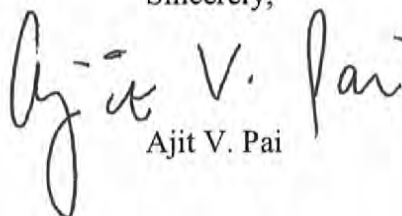
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rick Nolan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nolan:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
U.S. House of Representatives  
318 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1107 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Herrera Beutler:

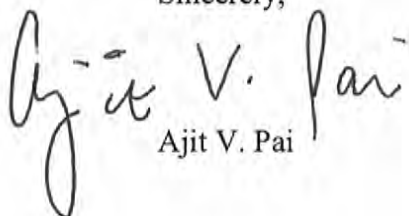
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John J. Faso  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1616 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Faso:

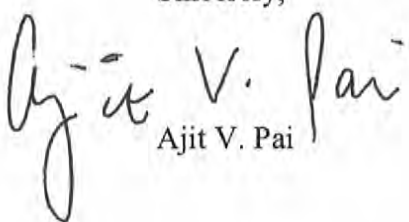
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rod Blum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blum:

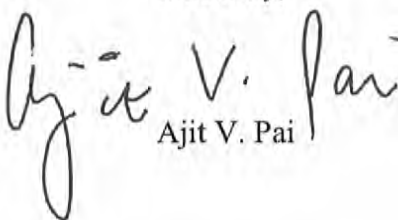
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Andy Barr  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1427 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

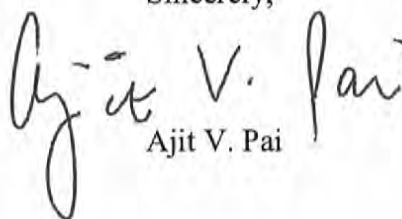
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

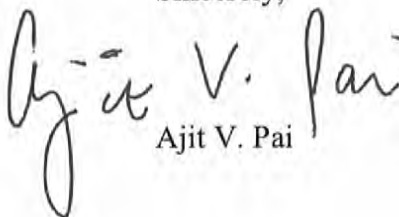
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Susan W. Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1030 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brooks:

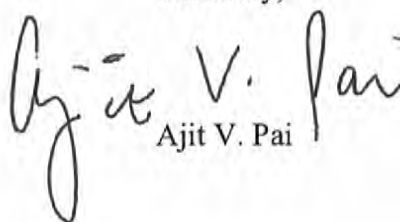
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Gallagher  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gallagher:

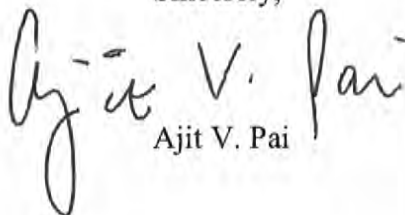
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Alex X. Mooney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1232 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mooney:

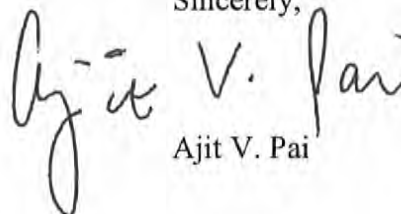
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Diane Black  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black:

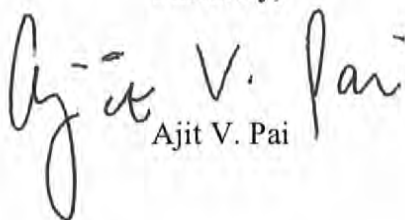
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jack Bergman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
414 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bergman:

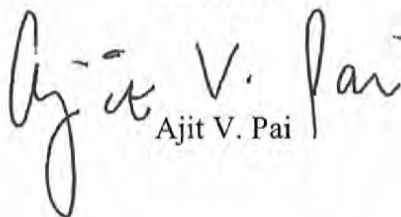
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ted Budd  
U.S. House of Representatives  
118 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Budd:

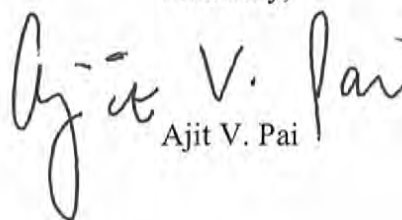
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim Costa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2081 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

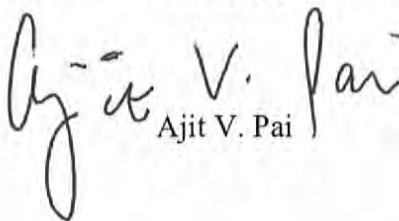
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
137 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

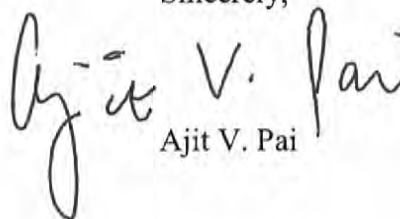
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

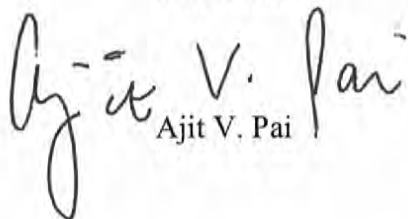
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ron Estes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2452 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Estes:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Costello  
U.S. House of Representatives  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costello:

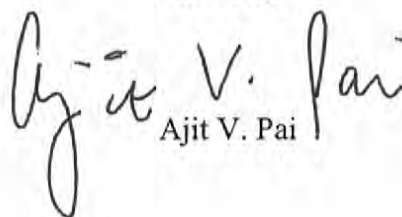
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Harper:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bucshon:

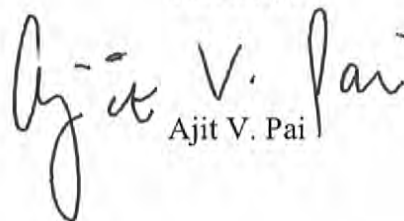
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "A" and "P".  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Evan Jenkins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1609 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jenkins:

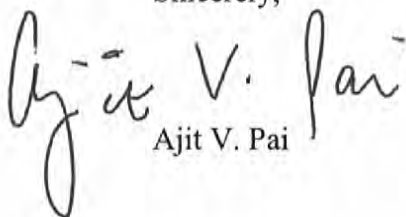
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

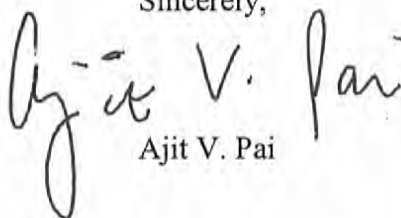
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

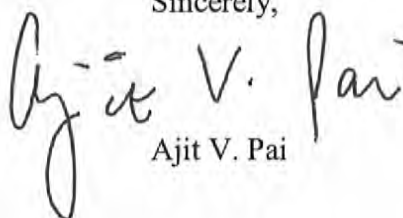
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Dave Loebsack  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

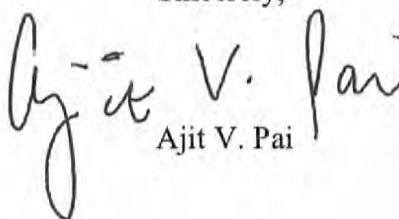
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2262 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Foxx:

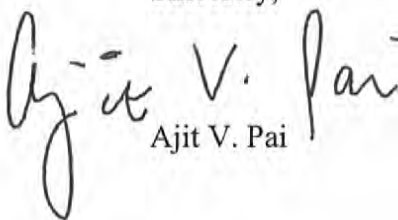
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Bob Latta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2448 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

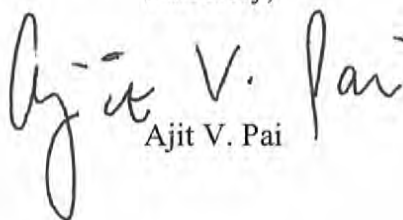
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
U.S. House of Representatives  
312 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marshall:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tim Walz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

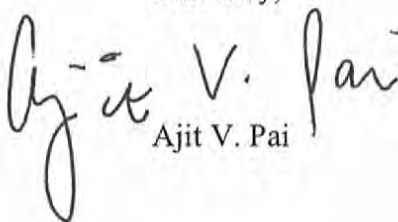
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script. The middle initial "V." is written in a simple, clear font between the first and last names.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2410 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fleischmann:

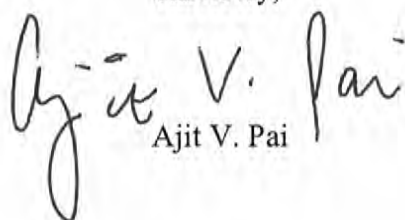
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1725 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sinema:

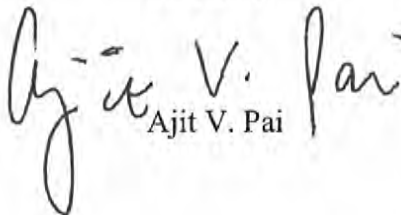
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Brian Mast  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mast:

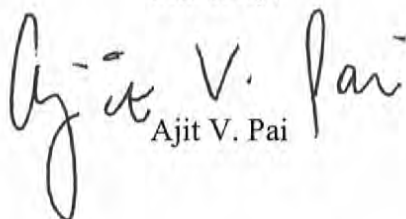
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steve Russell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Russell:

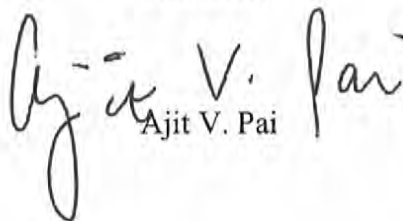
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Greg Gianforte  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gianforte:

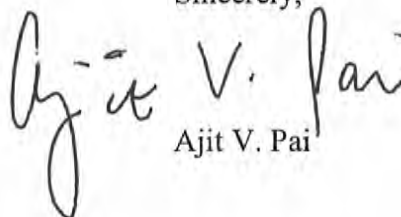
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Liz Cheney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
416 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Cheney:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1530 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cole:

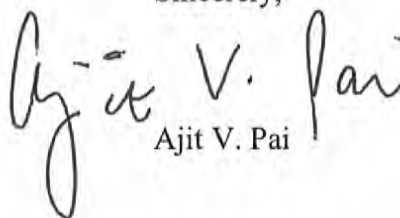
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
130 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

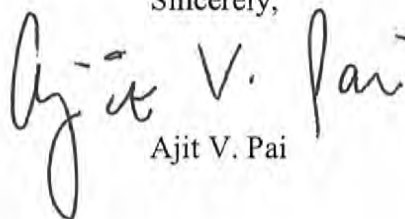
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

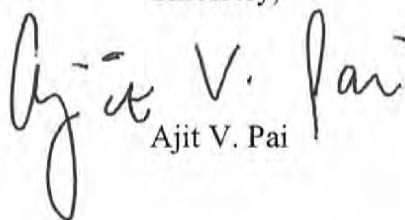
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mark Meadows  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1024 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meadows:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2230 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

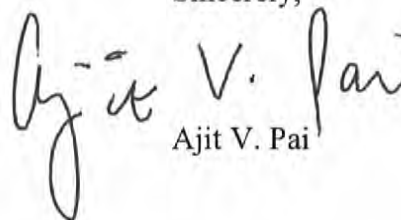
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Billy Long  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

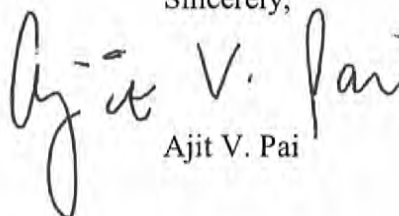
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a large, flowing script, and "V. Pai" written in a smaller, more formal script.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Yoder  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder:

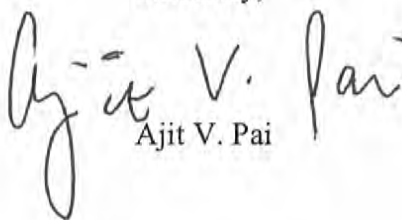
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1113 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mullin:

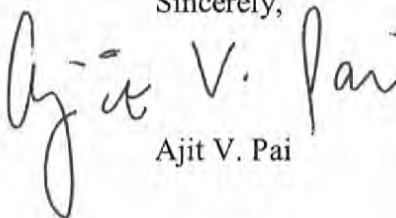
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Seth W. Moulton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1408 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moulton:

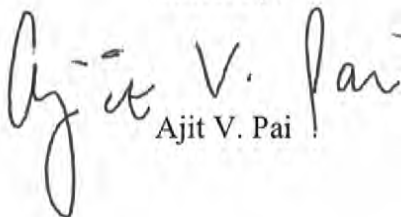
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1740 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ralph Abraham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
417 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Abraham:

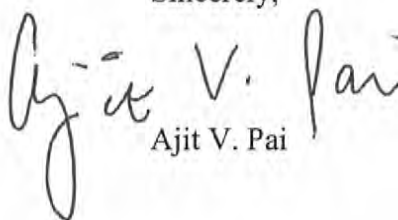
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

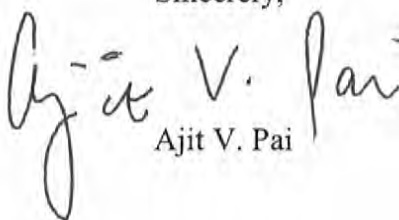
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
325 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ratcliffe:

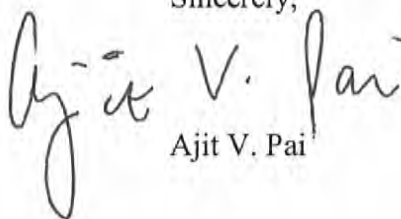
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2208 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thornberry:

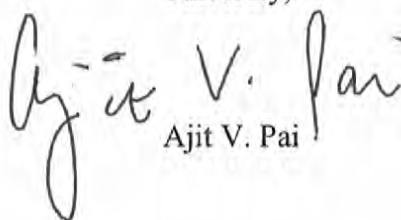
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ron Kind  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Darin LaHood  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1424 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaHood:

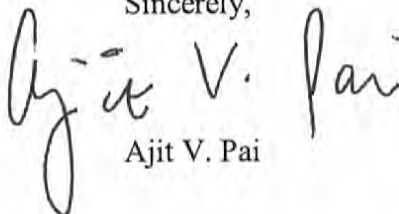
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffith:

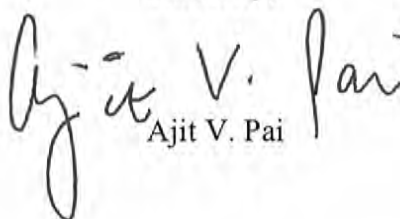
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2419 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

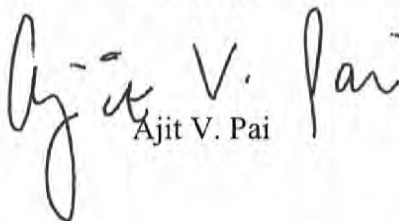
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
438 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

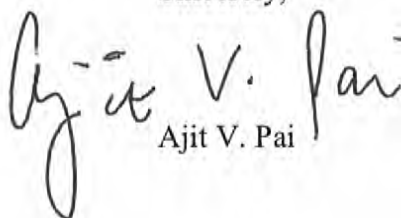
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Clay Higgins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1711 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

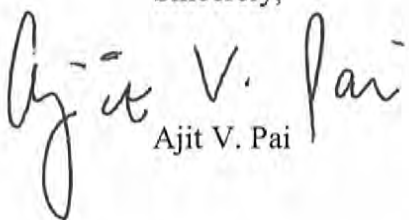
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mark Sanford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sanford:

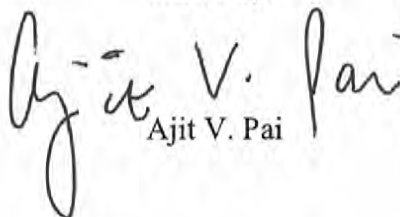
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ken Buck  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1130 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Buck:

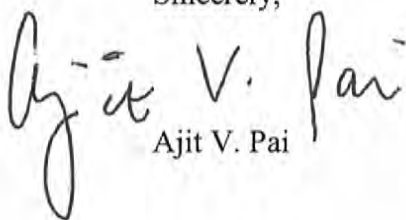
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Paul Cook  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1222 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cook:

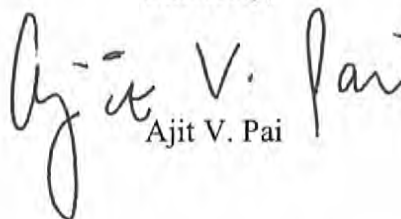
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2235 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

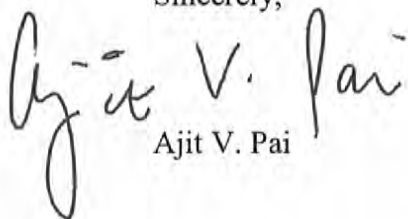
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steven M. Palazzo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo:

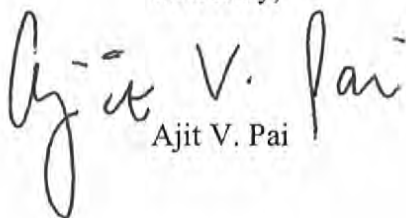
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part of the script.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conaway:

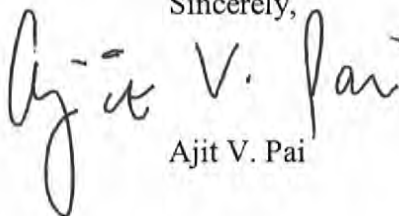
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable A.Donald McEachin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
314 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McEachin:

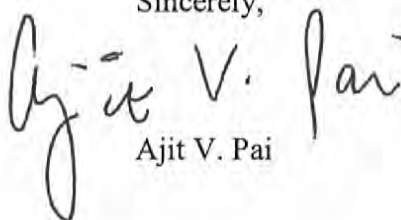
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
127 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

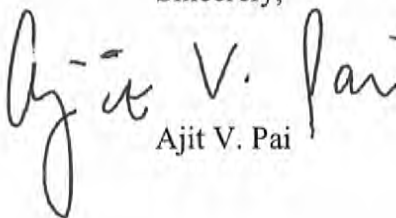
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Chris Collins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1117 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Collins:

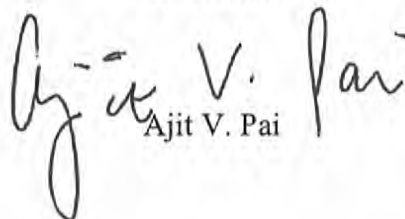
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable David Rouzer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
424 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mia Love  
U.S. House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Love:

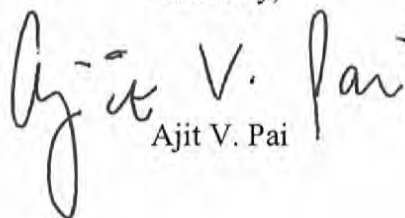
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Emmer:

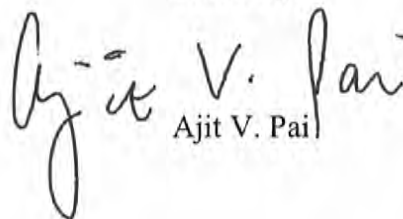
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2302 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

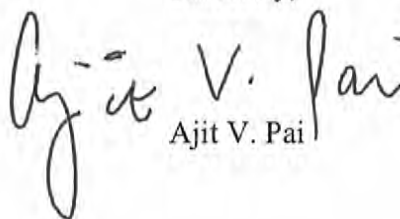
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Martha Roby  
U.S. House of Representatives  
442 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roby:

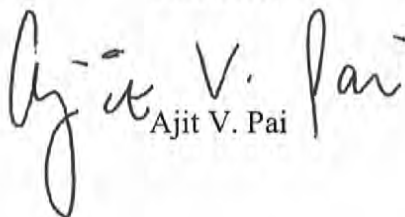
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable French Hill  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

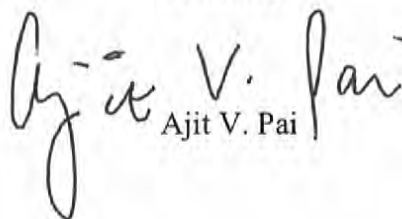
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tom Rice  
U.S. House of Representatives  
223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rice:

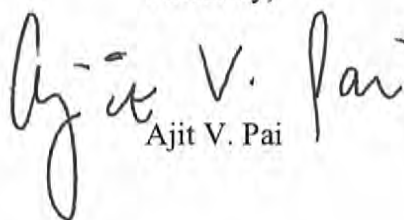
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Pete Olson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2133 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

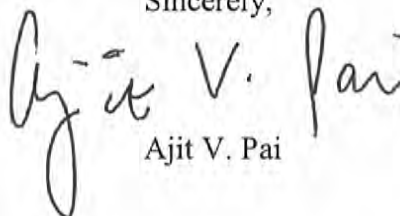
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Paul Mitchell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
211 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being particularly prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1319 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

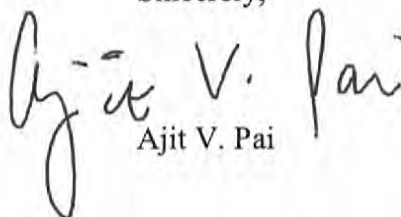
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John R. Curtis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2236 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Curtis:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

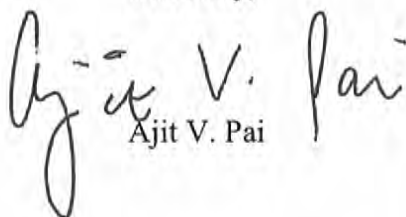
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Trent Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kelly:

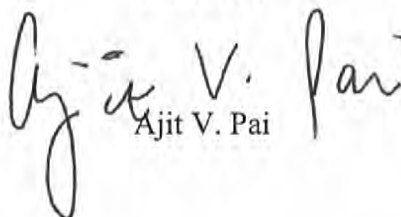
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2436 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walberg:

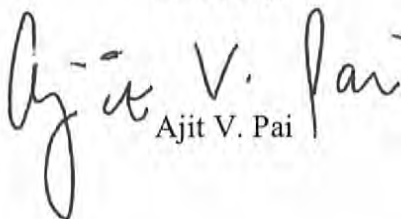
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Randy Weber  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Weber:

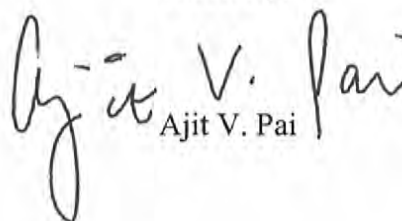
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
327 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

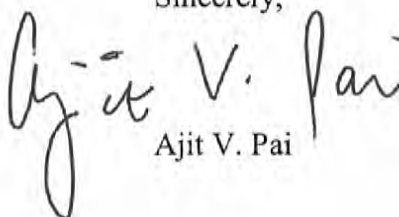
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Alma Adams  
U.S. House of Representatives  
222 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Adams:

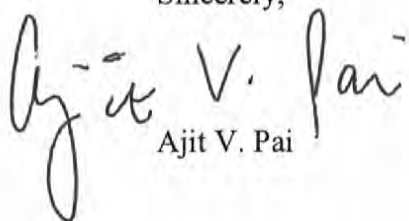
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

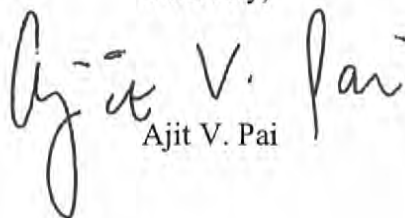
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Poliquin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1208 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Poliquin:

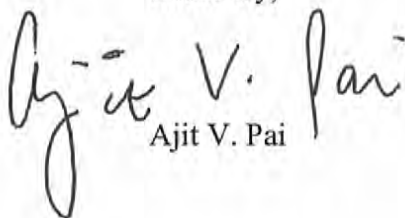
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ann Wagner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
435 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

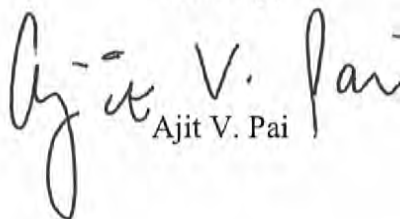
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Al Lawson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1337 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lawson:

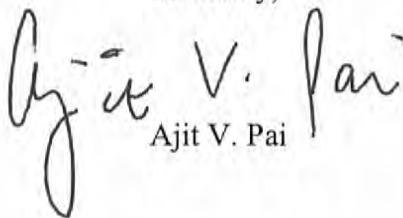
Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers and instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural America—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai